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Office of Distribution
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Rm. 700
San Francisco 3, California

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FEB 10 1945

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week Ending Sept. 29, 1944

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Onions - Daily carlot movement of onions has increased during the past week from 165 cars to an average of 181 cars. Onions on the markets show better maturity than last week, reflecting the retarded harvest indicated a week ago.

Indications continue to point toward a "tight" situation in both storage and transportation facilities for onions as the harvesting and shipping season advances.

Demand continues slow -- much under incoming supplies. Dealers thus far in the season show no special effort toward moving supplies.

Potatoes - Late crop potatoes are moving in greater volume into the wholesale and terminal markets. The daily carlot movement reached an average, this week, of 1225 cars compared with slightly over 1000 cars average for last week. Wholesale prices, and demand, throughout the region, have remained approximately the same as for last week.

Carrots - The volume of bunched and topped carrots this season has been about equal that of last season to this date. Carlot movement now amounts to 7190 cars.

Wholesale prices had declined slightly during the week, and top prices range from \$3 per crate of 6 dozen bunches in the Southwest to \$4.85 in the Northwest. Loose "trucked-in" stock has averaged 40 to 50 cents per dozen bunches during the week in the California markets. A heavy percentage of the supply on these markets is now arriving by truck.

Tomatoes - Supplies and prices of tomatoes remained at about the same level as for last week, although on the best quality stock demand was stronger and in the Northwest advanced slightly. Top prices on best stock in California markets declined slightly from top prices existing last week to an average of about \$2.50 per crate.

Plums and Prunes - The Market News Service seasonal office at Payette, Idaho, closed for the 1944 season as of September 30.

Total rail movement of fresh plums and prunes this season to date is 8645 cars, a 41 percent increase above that for last season for the same period.

F.o.b. shipping point sales at the close of the season were mostly \$1.55 to \$1.65 per bushel basket of U.S. #1 stock.

Grapes - Total rail movement of grapes to date this season is approximately 6 percent under that for last season for the same period. F.o.b. shipping point sales during the week for black juice stock was mostly \$160 to \$165 per ton, with Zinfandels going as high as \$200 per ton. Muscat juice stock ranged from \$180 to \$200 per ton, while Malagas were mostly \$145 to \$155 per ton. Table stock was strongly pushing the ceiling, but most sales were around \$1.95 to \$1.98 per 28-pound lug.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Supplies of butter continue below demand. Many dealers and retailers have resorted to rationing on sales, and retail sales throughout the Western Region have been limited to quarter pounds. While receipts this week have been below those of last week, they are considerably above those for the same week a year ago. The OPA announcement of increase in ration points to take effect October 1st increased demand during the week.

Eggs - Demand and price for top quality eggs continued upward during the week, and prices closed the week at 42 to 53 cents per dozen in the Northwest for Grade A large and in the Southwest at 54 to 57 cents, with the Los Angeles markets showing the top prices of 57 cents. Grade A smalls were the best buys at a range of 25 to 27 cents per dozen.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat - This week's offer by WFA to purchase from producers through CCC all unredeemed 1944 crop wheat on May 1, 1945 at parity price resulted in considerable speculation and some confusion on the western grain markets. The immediate result on the grain exchange of the East was the allowable 5 cent advance.

Demand on the Western market was greatly reduced and trading was inactive for the most part of the week - CCC buying prices advanced to \$1.45 per bushel. Soft white and ordinary Hard Red Winter were quoted at this price while Western Red was quoted at \$1.48 per bushel on the basis of #1 grade in bulk with 15 day shipment for coast delivery privilege in the Northwest.

The California market closed the week at \$2.60 to \$2.62 $\frac{1}{2}$ per 100 pounds, sacked basis, for soft white wheat.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle - Demand at yards appeared to gain strength toward the end of the week and prices advanced 25 to 50 cents on most stock. Top price quoted for fed steers at the close of the week was \$14.25 per cwt.

Hogs - In the western markets, supply and demand were more nearly equal than for the previous week. Sows were quoted as up, also feeder pigs, an average of 25 cents. Support weight hogs were taking ceiling prices.

Sheep - The week closed with a weak market for most of the western wholesale markets, and demand was not up to the previous week. Top price for the west was \$14.00 for good 95 to 100 pound lambs.

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